

thank her for being a true Oregon Health Care Hero.●

HONORING DR. WILLIAM P. FOSTER

● Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an innovative musician and Floridian, Dr. William P. Foster. For over 50 years, Dr. Foster was conductor of the internationally acclaimed Florida A&M University Marching "100" Band. Throughout his musical career at FAMU, Dr. Foster has been credited with revolutionizing marching band techniques and redefining the marching band as an art form. Dr. Foster's dedication to excellence in education through the arts has enriched the lives of Floridians and Americans.

In June of 1946, Dr. Foster came to Florida A&M University to establish the Marching "100" Band. Since its inception, the band has participated in more than 200 half-time pageants, has appeared in three films, three commercials, and numerous magazine and newspaper articles. The band has appeared on 60 Minutes, 20/20 and PM Magazine telecasts and thirty-four nationally televised performances on all networks with a viewing audience of over five billion people. On October 26, 1984, the FAMU Marching Band was presented the prestigious Sudler Intercollegiate Marching Band Trophy. In 1989, the band was selected by the French government, to serve as America's official representative in the Bastille Day Parade, celebrating the Bicentennial of the French Revolution. The band also appeared in both of President Bill Clinton's inaugural parades, in January of 1993 and 1997. This list of band appearances and honors is by no means exhaustive.

Dr. Foster's contributions to FAMU have earned him State and national recognition as well. He is a member of the Hall of Fame for several organizations including the National Association for Distinguished Band Conductors, the Florida Music Educators Association and the Afro-American Hall of Fame, to name a few. In 1994, he was elected president of the American Bandmasters Association and in 1996, President Bill Clinton nominated, and the U.S. Congress approved Dr. Foster's presidential appointment to serve on the National Council on the Arts. In August of 2003, Dr. Foster's efforts were recognized again by the State of Florida, when he was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. This award acknowledges individuals who contribute to Florida's national and international reputation as a State with a strong and sustained commitment toward the development of cultural excellence.

Dr. Foster has taken an active role to ensure the continued musical involvement of the FAMU student body. As an inspired bandleader and advisor, Dr. Foster sought financial support to aid his undergraduate students in the

Marching "100" Band. Initially, Dr. Foster gave thousands of dollars of his own money, and started to work with large and small corporations, and private citizens. However, Dr. Foster was never satisfied with the level of support he received for the students. When Dr. Foster stepped down as Director of Bands and Department Chairman, he set forth to dedicate his attention the creation of a foundation. To this end, and with the assistance of Mr. Harold E. Byrd, Sr., on April 22, 1998 the William P. Foster Foundation was established.

Mr. President, I commend Dr. William P. Foster for his commitment to education, music and philanthropy. His commitment to education and philanthropy is an example to us all. For his many years of public service, I am proud to acknowledge the work of Dr. William P. Foster.●

HONORING DR. OSWALD P. BRONSON, SR.

● Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a fine humanitarian and Floridian, Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., who will be retiring in June 2004. An educator and spiritual leader, Dr. Bronson has spent his life building bridges between the college and the community. Throughout his 28-year career as President of Bethune-Cookman College, Dr. Bronson has overseen tremendous growth and improvements on campus. Dr. Bronson's dedication to excellence in education and community advocacy has enriched the lives of Floridians and Americans.

Dr. Bronson's leadership and achievements at Bethune-Cookman College are a benchmark in higher education. Under his guidance, the college has nearly doubled its enrollment to 2,500. It has raised its community economic impact to \$250 million, boosted endowments from \$1.2 million to \$25 million, and increased its total operating budget from \$6 million to more than \$45 million. His vibrant personality, genuine concern for the growth of the institution, and commitment to the founder's vision, enable him to bring unprecedented private, corporate and governmental support to the institution.

Active on campus and off, Dr. Bronson's belief in service to the community is evident in his numerous outside activities, including his appointment to an advisory post by former President Bill Clinton. He has served as chairman and president of prestigious educational and religious organizations nationwide, including his most recent appointment to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Bronson is an ordained United Methodist Church minister, and former president of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary. He has served as a pastor in Florida, Georgia and Illinois for 16 years, and has lectured and taught in numerous mission schools,

clinics, pastoral institutes and leadership training seminars.

Dr. Bronson has fostered and strengthened Bethune-Cookman College's relationship with the local community and the world. A thoughtful and well-respected member of the Bethune-Cookman College family, Dr. Bronson has advocated for increased diversity and understanding on campus and off. I am pleased that outstanding Floridians like Dr. Bronson are setting an example for communities across our Nation, and I want to thank him for his service.●

SQUAW VALLEY PARK DEDICATION

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce the dedication of Squaw Valley Park in Placer County, CA.

Two decades ago, the Placer County Board of Supervisors and local community partners began their search for an ideal site for a community park. Their final choice was Squaw Valley, located within the Tahoe National Forest. Squaw Valley, which is internationally renowned as the site of the 1960 VIII Winter Olympic Games, is one of the crown jewels of the Sierra Nevada.

This park is also significant because its creation is the result of historic legislation, signed by President Clinton on July 29, 1998, allowing the U.S. Forest Service to conduct land transactions through sale rather than land exchange. I was proud to support this new approach because it saves taxpayers money through a much expedited transaction process.

When completed next spring, Squaw Valley Park will provide an exceptional recreational environment in which local residents and visitors will be able to enjoy this breathtaking region of California. I commend all those who have made the dream of Squaw Valley Park a reality.●

IPS CHARITY DYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 27: WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Indianapolis Public School Charity Dye Elementary 27 as a recent recipient of the prestigious No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established in 1982 to identify and recognize outstanding public and private schools across the United States. In keeping with the principles of the No Child Left Behind Act—the education reform bill signed into law in 2002—the requirements for this award have been strengthened and now focus more intently on student achievement results.

Charity Dye Elementary School is an Indianapolis inner-city school, and is the first IPS school to receive this award in nearly 20 years. While the

school faces all the same challenges as most inner-city schools, Charity Dye has shown that challenges can be overcome with hard work and dedication to the cause.

Five years ago, the percentage of third grade students who passed the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress exam at Charity Dye was 30 percent. Last year, this number was 83 percent a gain of 50 percentage points, and nearly 13 percentage points over the statewide average. This is an extraordinary turn around.

Charity Dye has made this progress by internalizing the philosophy of the No Child Left Behind Act and operating under the assumption that every child can learn, and that every child will learn.

I am very pleased to take this opportunity to applaud all the students, teachers, and administrators of Charity Dye Elementary School for their hard work and dedication to learning. I hope that the early love of learning will stay with each of the students of Charity Dye as they progress through school. And I encourage each and every one of Charity Dye's teachers, students, and administrators to keep up the excellent work.

As a former mayor of Indianapolis, I am very proud of IPS Charity Dye Elementary 27 and offer this school as a model of excellence for other schools in Indiana and across the Nation.●

HONORING DR. MARIA ALICIA GARZA

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Maria Alicia Garza, associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Boise State University. Dr. Garza has been chosen as the Idaho Professor of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This prestigious honor is a tribute to Dr. Garza's outstanding teaching, which touches, motivates, and inspires.

Dr. Garza has been with Boise State since 1996 and has received excellent reviews from Day One. She is recognized by both faculty and students for her knowledge of the subject matter, her infectious enthusiasm, and her thorough preparation. As a result of this dedication, Dr. Garza's students have been motivated to succeed, as they have graduated from BSU and moved into the workforce.

Not surprisingly, this is not the first time Dr. Garza has been recognized for her outstanding efforts. She has also received the Associated Students of Boise State University Faculty Recognition Award, as well as the College of Arts Distinguished Teaching Award during her time at Boise State. The Idaho Professor of the Year award is another example of Dr. Garza's commitment to high quality education in Idaho. I offer my congratulations and highest praise to Dr. Garza, Idaho's Professor of the Year.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. DON DUGI

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to Dr. Don Dugi professor of political science at Transylvania University located in Lexington, KY on being named the Kentucky Professor of the Year.

The Professor of the Year Awards are the only national awards that recognize college and university professors for their teaching. Since 1981, the Professor of the Year awards have been given to professors who exhibit dedication to teaching and commitment to their students.

Dr. Dugi has exhibited great commitment to his students at Transylvania University. As a professor for political science, Dr. Dugi is tasked to mold our Nation's future leaders. Being honored with this award Dr. Dugi sets an example of excellence for the rest of the faculty and for his students.

Mr. President, I now ask my fellow colleagues join me in thanking Dr. Dugi for his dedication and commitment to the education of America's future. In order for our society to continue to advance in the right direction, we must have professors like Dr. Dugi in our colleges and universities.●

PROFESSOR CAROLE GAVIN

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Dr. Carole Gavin, my constituent who was recently named the New Jersey Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. This award is given to professors who demonstrate a high level of dedication to teaching and a commitment to students, and who use innovative instructional methods. Dr. Gavin's dedication to teaching non-English speakers and academic accomplishments make her an outstanding recipient of this award.

As a professor of French and English as a Second Language at Burlington County College in New Jersey, Dr. Gavin has spent the past 22 years devoted to her students. I think she describes her teaching philosophy best: "my primary objective as a professor here at Burlington County College since 1971 has been to help students understand that language, whether it be a foreign language or English, plays a critical role in their success as human beings and professionals."

Dr. Gavin's professional accomplishments include expanding the college's English as a Second Language program into a multi-level, nine-course program that serves over one hundred students from many different countries. Last year, Dr. Gavin received the Association of Community College Teachers', ACCT, Northeast Regional Award. The ACCT describes her as "a stellar member of the Burlington County College faculty," and calls her commitment to her students "exemplary."

In addition to her role as teacher, Dr. Gavin recently underwent one of the most difficult personal challenges an individual can face. Emerging victorious from a battle with breast cancer, Dr. Gavin used her struggle to help others by working with the Phi Theta Kappa honor society to launch the Carole Gavin Scholarship initiative. This scholarship provides active Phi Theta Kappa members, who have been touched by cancer, with financial resources to help defray educational expenses for the Academic Year 2003–2004 while enrolled in either two or four-year institutions.

It has become something of a cliché to describe someone as an inspiration. Nevertheless, the work that Carole Gavin has done both professionally and personally is truly inspirational, and I offer her my deepest congratulations.●

TRIBUTE TO VICKY MROCZEK

● Mr. DeWINE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a remarkable woman—a woman who devoted herself to improving the lives of those often overlooked in our society—the elderly and the poor. The State of Ohio lost one of its most dynamic and compassionate public servants with the passing of Vicky Mroczek on September 28, 2003.

Vicky Mroczek dedicated over 20 years of her career to public service in Ohio, most recently serving as the Chief of the Office of Community Services in the Ohio Department of Development. Since 1985, she administered Ohio's Home Energy Assistance Program, a federally funded program that helps low-income households manage their energy bills. Earlier in her career, she worked for the Ohio Consumer's counsel, representing Ohio's residential customers in utility matters. She also served on the Board of the Central Ohio Transit Authority.

Vicky was also a prominent figure at the national level, working on creative and innovative approaches to helping low-income households afford essential energy services. She served as Chair of the National Low-Income Energy Consortium from 1993 until her death. She also served as Chair of the National Energy Assistance Directors Association from 1990 through 1992.

Vicky Mroczek was an engaging and dynamic public speaker, someone who could engage audiences from the cities to the farms, in local settings to national forums, reaching utility clients, utility executives, and everyone in between. She led with grace, fairness, and most of all, compassion. Her service and dedication to the citizens of Ohio and to low-income families across our Nation is a model to us all. She will be missed.

Vicky's husband of 24 years, George Diehl; her mother Phyllis Mroczek; and her sister, Michelle Mroczek, remain in our thoughts and prayers.●